



## Did U Know?

Wasim Jaffer of India scored 100 runs from 198 balls in the second innings of the first Test against England. It was his maiden century.



**Rafael Nadal**  
(Spanish tennis star)  
"To beat Roger is special. I am so happy for this."  
After beating Roger Federer in the Dubai Open final.



**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Barcelona vs Chelsea  
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)  
**STAR Sports**  
UEFA Champions League  
Juventus vs Werder Bremen  
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

## Jubok Phone to give BFF Tk 50 lakh

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday signed an agreement with Telebarta Ltd as sponsors of the National Football Championship, which was last held in 2003.  
Formerly known as Sher-e-Bangla Cup National Football Championship, the competition will be launched after the FIFA World Cup 2007 as Jubok Phone National Football Championship.  
Jubok Phone is a brand of the private land-phone company, which will provide Tk 50 lakh as sponsorship money.  
BFF president SA Sultan and Jubok Phone managing director ANM Golam Sarwar signed the agreement at the BFF Bhaban.  
Afterwards, Sultan defended

## Hosts weighing options

HASIBUR RAHMAN from Bogra



Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were back to business when both sides had full-fledged training sessions here at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium yesterday in their build-up to the second and final Test starting tomorrow.

After an eight-wicket defeat in Chittagong, the Tigers are looking forward to reshuffle the squad in a bid to be more competitive at the ground where they recorded their first ever one-day international victory against the mighty Sri Lankans.

It is expected that only one or two changes would be made to the side that played in the first Test. Alok Kapali and Nafees Iqbal are the two batsmen looking uncertain after their frustrating shows in Chittagong. Kapali, who returned to the Test fold after more than a year, was chosen by the selectors as an all-rounder but the Sylhet cricketer

bowled only three overs after failing with the bat in both innings.

Nafees got good starts in both innings but the way he had thrown away his chances, was heavily criticised by all quarters. The Chittagong opener, however, might be given another opportunity to start the innings with Javed Omar as the team management is reluctant to promote Shahriar Nafees -- the only other specialist opening batsman in the side -- in the order.

Shahriar has proved worthy in the middle-order, building partnerships as well as being effective against the rival spin attack as a left-hander. Although he opens the batting in domestic cricket and one-day internationals, he never looked confident against the new ball during his two away Tests in Sri Lanka last year.

In the line to join the Test eleven are local boy Mushfiqur Rahim, the under-19 captain who has not played any Test since his debut against England at Lord's last summer, and Aftab Ahmed.

Aftab is the likely replacement of Kapali as his part-time medium

pace would be handy for Bangladesh on a wicket that showed good bounce during the first one day between the two sides here last month. The same wicket will be used for the Test match.

In spite of the lively pitch, Bangladesh will not consider taking three specialist pacers because of its hardness and lack of grass would assist the batsmen mostly.

Meanwhile, the stadium in Bogra, which will host its maiden Test after being awarded two one-day internationals last month, awaits another landmark for Sri Lanka's champion spinner Muttiah Muralidaran.

The off-spinner, who scalped nine wickets in the first Test, got his 1000th international wicket in the process and is just seven wickets short of reaching the 600-mark. If he achieves it, Muralidaran will become the second man in history of cricket to do so after Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board, meanwhile, has distributed 500 tickets to the students of 16 schools.



A Sri Lanka batsman doing shadow as coach Tom Moody (L) and others look on at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'We left attack too late'



BBC ONLINE, undated

India captain Rahul Dravid said his team only decided to try for victory in the first Test at tea on the final day. They were 131-1 at tea, needing another 237 to win and with hind-sight would have launched their attack earlier.

Dravid said: "We started out with the plan of getting through the first two sessions and then seeing where we were at tea."

"We decided to have a go at tea-time. Thinking back we could have probably gone for it 40 minutes earlier."

Dravid said it was an interesting final session but a win was always a long shot, as light ended play early with India 108 runs short and four wickets in hand.

"It was never going to be easy to chase those runs on that wicket. To have a go we probably needed

Dhoni or Irfan to keep going for a bit longer," he added.

He also praised his young side, opener Wasim Jaffer hitting his



RAHUL DRAVID

maiden Test century, and Mohammad Kaif hitting 91 in the first innings.

"The way we batted to save a Test match batting on the last day on a

wearing wicket was a good effort.

"We showed some spirit, even the partnership of Kaif and Kumble was very critical in the larger scheme of things."

"We have got some things to work on and we will get some confidence for some of the things we have done."

The second Test starts in Mohali on Thursday and India have batsman Yuvraj Singh available for selection after returning from injury.

Dravid added: "We have got a few (selection) headaches but they are nice headaches to have."

"We have got a few choices to make but it's good to know you have got people sitting out as well who are in form and can get runs if you need them."

"There are some really good talented youngsters who bring in a good spirit and I think we need to be a bit patient with them and give them some opportunities and I think they won't let us down."

## Dhaka remain second

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Dhaka trailed joint-leaders Rajshahi and Chittagong by two points at the end of the seventh round of the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League first-class competition yesterday when their match against Barisal ended in a draw.

Dhaka collected four points out of maximum six by virtue of a first-innings lead as the home side were all out for 330 in their first innings on the fourth and final day at the Barisal Stadium.

Rajshahi and Chittagong are atop the six-team table with 26 points each while Khulna remained at the bottom with ten points with three rounds to go.

Dhaka, who scored 395 in the first innings, were 215 for five in the second essay when stumps were drawn.

Overnight 305-6, Barisal added only 25 runs in 10.5 overs in the morning session as Mohammad Sharif picked up three quick wickets to end with 4-84. His fellow pacer Anwar Munir captured the wicket of Humayun Kabir, who was dismissed for 55.

Dhaka also lost early wickets but opener Uttam Sarkar's 74 off 140 balls steadied the innings during a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Aussie stay alive



AFP, Port Elizabeth

Ricky Ponting made a triumphant return from injury when he captained Australia to a 24-run win over South Africa in the third one-day international at St George's Park Sunday.

Ponting made top score of 62 in an Australian total of 254 for six. Then he led a fired-up Australian team in the field as South Africa were bowled out for 230, with fast bowler Brett Lee taking four for 48.

South Africa crashed to 69 for five but their hopes were raised when AB de Villiers (68) and Shaun Pollock (69) put on 119 for the sixth wicket.

Lee, after struggling in the first two games, dismissed captain Graeme Smith in the third over of the South African innings and took wickets at important times to earn the man of the match award.

His figures were spoilt when he conceded 15 runs in his final over, with South African number ten batsman Roger Telemachus slogging two sixes.

Australia needed the win after they lost the first two of five matches while Ponting was missing because of an abdominal strain.

"We've been in this sort of situation before in series. We lost the first final of the VB Series a few weeks ago (against Sri Lanka in Australia) and won the next two," said Ponting.

"It was a really good win for us. We batted steadily enough to post a good total and then Brett and the rest of the bowlers did a good job for us."

South Africa skipper Graeme Smith said he was disappointed with the outcome.

"We needed one good partnership in our top five," said Smith.

"It was a definitely gettable total. Polly and AB showed what was needed."

Smith sent Australia in to bat because he believed the conditions would remain similar for both innings in a day game on a small ground which has yielded some high totals.

A slow pitch proved less batsman-

friendly than expected, however.

The Australian batsmen struggled to time the ball against accurate bowling, while South Africa fielded well, but Australia managed to score 99 runs off the last 12 overs. Michael Hussey hammered 22 off 10 balls with two sixes and a four.

Ponting started slowly, taking 48 balls to score his first 24 runs, but accelerated to reach his half-century off 72 deliveries.

The Australian captain launched an assault against key South African bowler Pollock in the 39th over, hitting two boundaries, but he skied an attempted big hit in Pollock's next over and was caught at deep midwicket.

Pollock, who earlier had Adam Gilchrist caught behind for 25, finished with two for 45.

Ponting put on 63 for the second wicket with Simon Katich, who was run out for 49 by outstanding fielding by AB de Villiers, who dived to his

left at mid-on and hit the stumps at the bowler's end from a prone position.

Damien Martyn helped Ponting put on 74 for the third wicket. Martyn made 51.

South Africa were in trouble when Smith's dismissal was followed by that of the in-form Herschelle Gibbs, who was unluckily run out when bowler Stuart Clark deflected the ball into the stumps while Gibbs was backing up.

Their fate seemed sealed when three wickets fell for nine runs before the stand between De Villiers and Pollock brought them back into the game. South Africa needed 67 off 46 balls when Pollock swung and missed against Shane Watson.

De Villiers, who made his first half-century in one-day internationals, was out in the next over

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Happy Eng move to Mohali



BBC ONLINE, Undated

England arrived in Chandigarh on Monday morning with a buzz around the side ahead of the second Test against India.

Because of its early help for seamers, the Mohali ground offers the tourists' best chance of victory after a morale-boosting opening draw in Nagpur.

"We have a lot of confidence because we were the best team throughout the Test," said paceman Steve Harmison.

"We bowled well and if we can do the same again, with a bit more pace in the wicket, we might sneak a win."

Batsman Kevin Pietersen, the only injury worry after his collision with boundary hoardings in Nagpur, was cleared after a precautionary X-ray on his left elbow.

With captain Michael Vaughan and Simon Jones both nursing knee injuries and Marcus Trescothick at home for personal reasons, England fielded three debutants in Nagpur.

But they withstood the pressure well, with Alastair Cook hitting 164 runs in both innings and spinner Monty Panesar taking three wickets.

England also witnessed the coming of age of Paul Collingwood, with his maiden Test century in his sixth appearance, and Matthew Hoggards' return to form with seven wickets.

"We're slightly disappointed we lost this Test but that shows how far this team has come," Harmison told BBC Radio Five Live.

"India might have been a bit complacent but we put them under pressure for five days. If they took us a bit lightly they realised how much we fight."

"I've no doubt we'll see a more focused India team because they

realise now they're in a Test series."

England's last visit to Mohali, in December 2001, saw them defeated by 10 wickets with spinners Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble sharing 15 victims.

The ground has a reputation for favouring seam bowlers on the first day, which could appeal to Hoggard, man of the match in the first Test.

But the pitch is generally flat, with an average team score of 475 in completed innings since England's visit.

If off-spinner Shaun Udal has recovered from a side strain, he may replace Ian Blackwell, who struggled for consistency on his Test debut.

England barely used the second spinner during the first innings and may opt instead to bolster their batting further, with emergency call-up Owais Shah the next in line.

Hoggard said: "We'll have a break, rest up a bit, and then come out all guns blazing again."

## AFC Cup Brothers take on Muharraq today

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier League and Federation Cup champions Brothers Union will begin their AFC Cup campaign today when they take on Muharraq of Bahrain in Manama.

The match will kick off at Bangladesh time 8.15pm at the Bahrain National Stadium.

Brothers, drawn in Group A with Lebanon's Al Ahid and Mahindra United of India, will play their next match on March 21 at home against Mahindra.



PHOTO: AFP

Thuringia's Potatoe Princess Anja Peters poses with a ball behind a plateful of the eastern federal state's culinary speciality, dumplings, on the opening day of the exhibition "Cult and Culture around Football and Dumpling" on Monday at the Dumpling Museum in Heichelheim, eastern Germany.

## Time to make friends again

AFP, Melbourne



A record 4,500 athletes from 71 nations will compete in 16 sports in the biggest Commonwealth Games yet staged, getting underway here next week.

Fifty years after hosting the Olympic Games, Australia's second-biggest city of 3.5 million people, will host the fourth Empire/Commonwealth Games in Australia following those in Sydney (1938), Perth (1962) and Brisbane (1982).

Fighting criticisms of relevancy in a fast-evolving world, the 18th edition of the Commonwealth Games will once again lean heavily on its moniker as the 'Friendly Games' differentiating itself from the multi-faceted Olympics.

The sporting powers of the British Commonwealth -- Australia, England and Canada -- will again dominate the medals with New Zealand, South Africa, India, Scotland and Kenya expected to figure prominently on the medals

tally.

Yet the Commonwealth Family embraces its tiny member states as well with diverse nations such as Gambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Cayman Islands, St Kitts Nevis, Maldives, Brunei, Vanuatu, Niue, Kiribati and Falkland Islands coming to the party.

Australia is splashing out over one billion dollars (740 million USD) to ensure the success of the Melbourne Games, with funding from the Australian government, the Victorian state government and corporate sponsorship.

A VIP list of Queen Elizabeth II, Nelson Mandela and British Prime Minister Tony Blair head a list of 400 world leaders, celebrities, business chiefs and sporting greats invited to attend.

The Games will be seen by an estimated global audience of up to 1.5 billion people each day, including the prime American market for the first time.

The Victorian state government expects some 100,000 Australian and overseas visitors to come to the Games, which has necessitated a major security operation.

The federal government will devote 85 million dollars (65 million USD) to security.

Fighter jets and helicopters will circle Melbourne's skies at the

opening and closing ceremonies and a 75-kilometre (45-mile) no-fly zone will help shield the city from terrorist attacks. There will also be an exclusion zone around the athletes' village.

More than 1,200 troops will join 13,000 police, 5,000 private security guards and squads of counter-terrorism experts to protect the Games.

Major infrastructure work has been carried out to deliver sporting venues and the athletes' village.

The 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground, major venue of the 1956 Olympics, has been renovated with new stands and the installation of an athletics track at a total cost of 434 million dollars (320 million USD).

The Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre has been expanded at a cost of 55 million dollars (40 million USD) and the athletes' village to accommodate 6,000 competitors and officials has been constructed on a 27-hectare (66-acre) site.

A giant tent seating 1,800 athletes at a time has been put up at the village, which will be open around the clock, serving 20,000 meals daily.

The village has 155 permanent houses, 68 apartments, 14 town-houses and 115 temporary cabins plus its own police station and post

office.

In peak times there will be buses arriving or leaving the athletes' village 180 times an hour -- one every 20 seconds.

Following on from the success of the 2000 Sydney Olympics, volunteers will again feature prominently in the Games' workforce, with some 15,000 comprising the 30,000 workers.

The Queen's Baton relay, claimed to be the world's longest and most inclusive travelling more than 180,000 kilometres (108,000 miles) through all 71 Commonwealth nations, is scheduled to arrive at the MCG during the opening ceremony on March 15.

Australia won 82 gold medals at the last Games in Manchester in 2002 and hopes to do better here.

But for all the hype and hoopla, almost half a million tickets still remain unsold.

Organisers have released new tickets for some previously "sold-out" high-profile events -- gymnastics, netball, basketball and athletics finals.

No tickets to the popular diving, swimming, synchronised swimming or track cycling sessions have

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8